

REMARKS:

Claims 33-35, 51-52, and 54-55 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 27-32, 36-50, and 53 remain pending.

In the above-cited Office Action, the Examiner has communicated a restriction requirement between three groups identified as: **Group I**, claims 27-45 (drawn to a filter element); **Group II**, claims 46-53 (drawn to a method of manufacture of a filter element); and **Group III**, claims 54-55 (drawn to apparatus for removing contaminants).

The applicants, through the undersigned attorney, hereby elects to prosecute **Group I** (claims 27-45) with traverse.

The Examiner determined that the claims lack a unifying "special technical feature" in view of the disclosure of mixing a filter element with activated carbon in Wilson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,321,915). As directed herein, all claims reciting activated carbon have been cancelled. Moreover, all claims have now been amended to recite embodiments of the invention that feature a catalyst. Accordingly, all claims now share the same general inventive concept of a filter including a catalyst (as opposed to activated carbon).

The Wilson et al. reference only describes activated carbon. There is no description or suggestion of the use of a catalyst. A catalyst and activated carbon act in very different manners. Activated carbon will adsorb chemical contaminants (see paragraph 4 and 8 of the present application), and it is necessary to regenerate the filter to reactivate the carbon. See also column 4 line 15 of Wilson et al. The catalyst acts on the contaminants to degrade them into smaller harmless molecules (see paragraph 8 and 24). Thus, the activated carbon is reacting

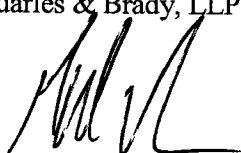
physically to absorb/adsorb, but the catalyst reacts chemically (while remaining unaltered, it merely facilitates). Hence, a catalyst is distinct from activated carbon and all pending claims are linked through being directed to a catalyst-containing filter or process for making same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims now are ready for examination on the merits.

Other than the fee for a one-month extension of time petition, no fee is believed to be due with this response. Should there be any unforeseen costs, please charge our Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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